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Foreign and Colonial Intelligence.

UNITED STATES.

THE AMISTAD CAPTIVES.—The case of the Africans captured in the Amistad was, at the date of the last accounts, exciting the deepest interest. Almost the whole of the *American and Foreign Anti-slavery Reporter*, Nos. 12 and 13, is occupied with documents relating to it; and the feeling entertained by the friends of humanity, in relation to the approaching trial in the supreme court, is thus expressed in the following number of the same journal.

"The crisis approaches. Contrary to the opinion entertained by many for some months, it is now believed that the situation of these poor Africans is indeed perilous! We do not say this merely to induce the benevolent to send money for their relief. Most generously has a portion of the community responded to the appeals of the committee. But the action of influential slave-holders at Washington—the tone of the government press—and letters received from the capital—render it but too certain that powerful influences are in operation to induce the judges of the supreme court—who are but men of like passions with other men—and, as a majority of them are slave-holders, we may say with like passions as other slave-holders—to give a decision unfavourable to the captives. Great alarm is beginning to be felt and expressed by the editors of the leading newspapers who have flesh in their hearts—some have not, "I speak it to their shame,"—at the atrocity about, as is apprehended, to be perpetrated. This alarm, we venture to predict, will rise into horror if any branch of our government undertake—in view of the facts before the American people—to consign these kidnapped and much-wronged Africans to the Spanish minister, who, under the pretence of sending them to Havana, that their claim to freedom may undergo a judicial examination, will assuredly consign them to certain death. A feeling of sympathy and indignation will prevail throughout the free states, and even among many in the slave states. But, even if the worst befalls them, God will cause the wrath of man to praise him. Should the supreme court, or the executive, proceed to the extremity so justly feared, Divine Providence, we doubt not, will overrule the flagrant outrage, and stir up an opposition to slavery, and its concomitant, the slave-trade, that will not rest until the accursed system is for ever extinguished on this continent. As the death of the martyrs was the seed of the church, so, undoubtedly, would the MASSACRE OF THE AFRICANS OF THE AMISTAD be the death-knell of the accursed system of slavery in the American Republic."

BRITISH COMMERCIAL TREATY WITH TEXAS.—The *American and Foreign Anti-slavery Reporter* contains the following just and important remarks on this subject:—

"The political newspapers announced some time since that negotiations were on foot between Lord Palmerston and General Hamilton, which would probably result in the establishment of commercial relations between the republic of Texas and the kingdom of Great Britain. Very many, in both countries, considered it an idle rumour. They thought, indeed, that it was quite probable that the clever ambassador, once governor of South Carolina, and now an adopted citizen of Texas, was attempting to procure the recognition of his newly-adopted country; but they did not believe that the British government was prepared to recognise this nation, at least until the atrocious feature in her constitution, making slavery perpetual, should be abolished. The English philanthropists were, it would seem, lulled into quietness by the apparent indifference of the Secretary for Foreign Affairs to the subject, and his seeming acquiescence in the views presented by them in opposition to the measure. At length the negotiations were disclosed, and it was found that, while Lord Palmerston was apparently listening with conviction to the representations that were made to him by the friends of universal liberty, he and General Hamilton had been concocting a commercial treaty, which is virtually a recognition, on the part of England, of the republic of Texas. This treaty was signed on the 16th of November, 1840. Texas has now been acknowledged by the United States, England, France, Holland, and Belgium. The abolitionists of Great

Britain, disappointed and deceived, have given vent to their feelings of regret and apprehension by passing a set of admirable resolutions, which have been transmitted to us for publication. We insert them, with the letter accompanying them, hoping that they will be extensively published in this country.

"Without professing much skill in penetrating into the secrets of diplomatists, it is quite probable that the Texan ambassador was aided by those British bankers who have negotiated loans to the new republic, and who might have been made to believe that the value of the securities depended essentially upon the recognition. It is understood that a special convention has been agreed upon, authorizing England to mediate with Mexico, with reference to the boundary line between that country and Texas. It is understood also, that Texas has engaged to take her portion of the debt contracted by Mexico, as soon as peace shall be declared.

"We would not assert as a positive fact, that any members of the British ministry have found their private interests concerned in the consummation so earnestly and perseveringly sought by Texan ambassadors. But we do know, that British investments, to an enormous amount, have been made in Texan lands and Texan bonds, for which nothing could have been realized, had the Texans failed in their attempts to conclude treaties, &c., by which Texas might be recognized by European powers as an independent nation. Time may disclose other stipulations and promises of advantage that have won the regard of the British cabinet, to a measure that appears, at first view, disastrous to the cause of freedom. Meantime some consolation may be derived from the fact, that this act of the British government puts an end to the expectation long held by the people of Texas, and by a considerable portion of the people of the United States, that the two republics would be united as one nation. We conclude our preliminary remarks by quoting from a letter from a highly respected correspondent, whose tongue and pen have been repeatedly and ably employed in warning his countrymen against the "unholy alliance" into which this country seemed at one time about to precipitate itself.

"This measure does not dishearten me. According to the usages of nations, Great Britain was not called to inquire into the legitimacy of this new government, but simply whether it could sustain itself, and sustain the usual relations with foreign powers. I doubt not that Great Britain thought much of getting a good customer; but, unless I am deceived, she had two other objects—first to settle a boundary between Texas and Mexico, which she will feel herself authorized to maintain, and next, to keep Texas separate from this country. In both these objects she has a palpable interest. Her West India possessions require that she should not suffer Texas to stretch itself along the gulf of Mexico; and, seeing in this country her great competitor, she cannot but be willing to prevent our extension, and to get up a rival state on our borders. I trust, these foreign alliances have secured us against the annexation of Texas. Her great men, after figuring as heads of a nation, and carrying on diplomatic intercourse with foreign countries, will have little disposition to shrink into state offices under our confederation. You are in the way of much more information than myself, and I may err—but I have a good hope."

"We unite with our respected brethren and co-adjutors in Great Britain in deploring this untoward event. The avaricious spirit of the British government has not resisted, it seems, the temptation to increase its trade by sacrificing its avowed principles. It is a deplorable affair, and will greatly detract from the high reputation so justly acquired by the British nation for doing so much for the oppressed. In view of this transaction, we are more impressed than ever with the belief that governments, as such, cannot be relied on to achieve anything for the moral reformation of the world. The philanthropists of Great Britain, by enlightening the public mind, and reaching the hearts and consciences of the people, have acted on the government from time to time, and thus accomplished many things for the cause of human rights, by the instrumentality of men who cared little or nothing for that sacred cause. But the aristocracy of any country cannot be relied on to ameliorate human suffering. It is covetous, proud, selfish, and unfeeling. The hope of the oppressed is not in this class, but in the virtue, sympathy, and piety of the middling and labouring classes. The recognition of Texas by Great Britain, deplorable as it is, adds another to the many motives we have to persevere in addressing the moral sense of our countrymen as to the great iniquity of slavery; and convincing them that the great body of the people must arouse themselves, and put down the iniquitous system, or the aristocrats of this republic, as well as the lords of Europe, will not only keep the enslaved in perpetual bondage, but reduce to the same condition all the working men of the civilised world.

"Knowing the ability of England to wield the precious metals in aid of her diplomatic skill, and the want of such influences in Texas, we were in hopes that the British government, if she determined on forming a commercial treaty with that power, would purchase an amendment of its constitution favourable to perpetual liberty, by a loan of a few millions sterling. Surely money could never be more wisely and beneficially employed by a great and powerful nation, than in inducing a young and needy republic to perform an act that she had not moral virtue enough to achieve. But, notwithstanding our regret and apprehensions, we think it a point of wisdom to hope for the best, and rely with unshaken faith upon the watchful providence of that great being, who holds the destinies of nations in his hands, and who will guard the welfare of the defenceless from the spoliations of crafty, covetous, and unmerciful men.

"The English newspapers, of nearly all parties, affect to think the negotiation has been brought to a successful issue by Lord Palmerston in a way to reflect great credit upon the administration, while it secures great advantages to the British nation. They say, another power is now established, which will tend to moderate the arrogant pretensions of the slave-trade of America; that Texas will hold the United States in check; that a reciprocal trade will be carried on between England and Texas to the disadvantage of this country, as the former power can supply the young republic with her manufactures without their being subject to the duties imposed by the United States, and then Texas can raise cotton at thirty per cent. less than the southern States can grow it. Whatever commercial or political advantages may accrue to Great Britain from the recognition of Texas, we venture to predict that they will prove of small value, in comparison with the high moral character she would have sustained by refusing, on any terms, to shake hands with a nation that has incorporated into her system the accursed system of slavery, without making it a *sine quâ non* that such an odious feature should be struck from her constitution."

CONDITION OF THE SLAVE STATES.—The same paper contains the following extracts of a letter to Gerrit Smith, a leading abolitionist, from East Tennessee, dated August 31st, 1840:—

"I attended a meeting in —, and found myself in a crowd of the aristocracy of South Carolina. They treated me politely, even with marked attention. All that were present knew my sentiments respecting slavery. I had spoken plainly of it, and of transactions connected with it in South Carolina. While this was gratifying, I thought it was a circumstance of some importance, as it seemed to confirm my opinion that southern people really respect those who deal plainly with them, and firmly too, showing that they do not wish to invite severe criticisms."

"There were some things at this meeting which were perhaps worthy of remark. Those who were in attendance, and those who were on pleasure excursions, having nothing to do with the business of the meeting, were generally in a style indicating extravagance. They had fine eastern carriages, with a retinue of servants. They spend much of their time in this kind of absenteeism. Very often the money they use is in advance of their growing crop of cotton. With the planters I should presume this is, nine times in ten, the way they raise the means to travel abroad. Those able to go to this extent make but a small proportion of the white population. Those who own but few slaves cannot defray the expense, while the greater body of the white population, who own no slaves, are extremely poor and ignorant. I have no where travelled in the United States, where so much ignorance prevailed as among the great body of the yeomanry. The lands of all are much exhausted, so that they depend on an annual supply of pork, horses, mules, and cattle, from the West, mostly from Kentucky. They live poorly. Coarse corn bread, bacon, sweet potatoes, and cabbage, constitute the principal articles of diet. Milk makes a part, where they are able to keep a cow. In the cities the mode of living is better. The wealthy in the country purchase their flour, &c. South Carolina exports her principal crop, which is cotton and rice, and much of the produce of Georgia and South Carolina, giving her an appearance of wealth, which is unreal. In 1829, the census taken by the state showed something over 250,000 white inhabitants. Previous to the meeting I attended at —, in September, it had been taken again, showing a white population of about 250,100. If I recollect correctly, the postmaster of — told me there had been a decrease in ten years, though he remarked that the most unwarrantable efforts had been used to bring up the aggregate to that of 1829. My own opinion is, that there is a steady decline of the white population—probably of the black too—and from causes not likely to cease; one of the most prominent, their miserable system of agriculture, which soon murders their land. It is estimated by many that one-half of all the cleared lands in the state are thrown out as waste old fields. Much that is in cultivation is so exhausted that it pays but poorly for the labour on it. Another cause, yet more melancholy, is the idleness and dissipation of the young men. A large proportion of them have broken constitutions at the age of twenty-five years; a yet larger find themselves unfitted to become heads of families, and do not make the attempt."

"Yet South Carolina, feeble, old, and poor, thinks she has a kind of prescriptive right to control the Union. She claims the chivalry. The north awards it, which makes them conclude that they are really a superior order of men, who can at pleasure bully the north into any measures—no matter how absurd and destructive to the interests and prosperity of other sections. She must have her way, no matter who suffers. This is bad policy of the north. If they would secure their own interests, or the respect of the south, they should be firm and unyielding."

"On the subject of slavery but little is said, except so far as it is connected with politics. Both parties charge the other with connexions with the abolitionists. Probably neither of them make any political capital out of it. Those really opposed to slavery think that, on account of the political excitement, the times are unpropitious for discussing it. Those who look for remote causes think there has not been a time for many years when they had so much reason to take courage. The decline of cotton has put an end to the slave-trade. Mississippi, the great market for them, is bankrupt. Two weeks since I was told by a planter living near Vicksburg, that, of all the men in business in that town three years ago, only one had escaped bankruptcy. He said one-third of all the plantations in the State are uncultivated; and one-third of all the slaves are taken off. Many have gone back to Virginia. More have been run off to Texas. Others estimate both items at one-half. This has had much effect to lower the one of slave-dealers, many of whom have broke, and planters of cotton too."

MESSRS. BIRNEY AND STANTON.—The return of these highly esteemed friends is thus noticed in the same journal.

"The safe return of these two brethren to their native shores, has given great delight to their numerous friends, and the friends of the cause in this country. At the first meeting of the Executive Committee after their return, they communicated a statement of their labours in England, Scotland, and Ireland, and of the cordial reception given them wherever they journeyed or lectured. In view of their return, and of the gratifying reception they everywhere met, the committee have adopted the following resolutions."

"Resolved—That the Executive Committee welcome the return of their esteemed associates, James G. Birney and Henry B. Stanton, after a sojourn in Great Britain and Ireland, where they have been engaged in

diffusing information respecting American slavery, with zeal, prudence, and fidelity, to the acceptance of the friends of human rights in that country, and the approbation of the members of this committee."

"Resolved—That this committee has heard with the most grateful feelings of the honourable manner in which the delegates from this society to the general anti-slavery conference in London were treated by the Committee of the British and Foreign Anti-slavery Society on their arrival in England, and during their sojourn in Great Britain and Ireland."

"Resolved—That they have heard with the same grateful feelings of the multiplied and distinguished hospitalities extended by the said Committee, and Anti-slavery people generally, of Great Britain and Ireland to our Secretaries, Messrs. Birney and Stanton, during their journeyings in those countries with the view of diffusing correct information concerning slavery as it exists in the United States, and particularly as to its unhappy influence on our various religious communions."

"Resolved—That the recording secretary transmit a copy of the foregoing resolutions to the Secretary of the British and Foreign Anti-slavery Society."

FRUITS OF THE CONVENTION.—Extract of a letter from Theodore D. Weld to Charles Stuart;—"The effect of the London Convention upon American slavery is already showing itself thoroughly. Within a few weeks I have been overlooking some hundreds of newspapers in the slave-holding states—alarm pervades them all. The certainty that they are becoming infamous in the eyes of the civilized world, that their shifts and subterfuges and false issues are all exposed, and that, turn which ever way they list, the world's searching and consuming glance blazes upon them, is beginning to burn to the quick. The effect, too, upon the pro-slavery ministry and church of the free-states is very manifest. They are now defending themselves from accusations which have been talked against them for years, but which they have never, till now, been stirred up to ward off. 'Prejudice against colour,' so called, has also set up his howl, showing that the thrust has struck deep. The last two years have wrought mightily against American color-phobia. Oberlin and Oneida are still onward; the former has nearly 500 students—the latter about 80 or 90."

WHAT NEXT?—From the *Charleston Courier* of February 12, 1841.—"Field Negroes, by T. Gadsden.—On Tuesday, the 17th instant, will be sold at the north of the Exchange, at ten o'clock, a prime gang of ten negroes, accustomed to the culture of cotton and provisions, belonging to the Independent Church in Christ's Church Parish."

THE TIGRIS.—The court at Salem has pronounced the seizure of this vessel unlawful. An action of trespass was immediately brought against Mr. Jackson, with damages laid at 4000 dollars. Mr. Jackson was bailed by the British consul at Boston; and it was pleaded on his behalf that he acted under orders and was not personally liable. The court, however, ruled that that was quite another branch of the question, to be referred to the two governments, but that there was clearly within the meaning of the law and the powers of the courts of Massachusetts a ground of action for trespass. A more moderate bail was then demanded; and several citizens of Boston became bound for Mr. Jackson's due appearance when the cause is to be tried.

WEST INDIES.

JAMAICA.—The Legislature was prorogued on the 22nd of December, after a session of two months, during which they had passed no less than fifty-six acts. The Governor's speech contains nothing worthy of notice. An amended Marriage Act has been passed, containing, according to the *Colonial Reformer*, the following improvements:—

- 1st.—All documents connected with the registration of marriages exempted from stamp duty—except when married by special license.
- 2nd.—Dissenting ministers are empowered to marry by license as well as by banns.
- 3rd.—Penalties imposed by the act, *fine*, or imprisonment.
- 4th.—Time for recording duplicate marriages extended to six months instead of three.
- 5th.—Time of recording back marriages extended to the 30th June next.
- 6th.—*De facto* marriages can be recorded up to the same period.
- 7th.—Clergy of the established church can record *de facto* marriages.
- 8th.—Marriages solemnized after the passing of the act in April last, but not recorded from want of form—declared legal and valid.
- 9th.—Publication of banns on chapel doors abolished.

The same paper adds:—"AN ACT TO REGULATE THE DURATION OF A DAY'S LABOUR (!!!) was brought before the house by the indefatigable blunderer, Mr. J. R. Grossett, of St. George's. It was scouted as it deserved to be."

"THE VAGRANT ACT—the infamous ACT FOR REGISTERING FIRE-ARMS, and the FISHERIES' BILL have again passed the house."

"Mr John R. Grossett, in a recent discussion, objected to the abolition of punishment by whipping, because large number of *free immigrants* would shortly be arriving, and might require that kind of punishment!!! Let this fact be proclaimed throughout Europe and America. It speaks volumes, and needs no comment."

The island continues to experience a destructive drought.

The Baptist church at East Green-street, Kingston, have published some resolutions on the liberation of their pastor, the Rev. S. Oughton. We quote the following:—

"That this meeting would acknowledge, with emotions of deep and lively gratitude, the timely and liberal assistance of the committee and subscribers of the 'Jamaica Persecution Society,' together with those friends in England by whose approbation and countenance its pastor was cheered and supported in his privations and sorrows, and who have exerted themselves so actively in his behalf."

"That this meeting cannot withhold a public expression of its admiration of the conduct of the Honorable Dowell O'Reilly, her Majesty's Attorney General, for the very disinterested and liberal manner in which he espoused the cause of their persecuted pastor, and the talent and zeal which he uniformly displayed, and by which (under the blessing of God) he together with his learned colleagues, was enabled to bring the suit to a successful issue."

The fisheries bill, although re-enacted by the House of Assembly, was thrown out by the council, who have, during the late session, shewn themselves the more friendly of the two bodies to liberty.

A copy of the new Immigration act is given in the *Aligator*. It conforms, in the letter, to the suggestions of Lord John Russell; and, in

some important respects, only in the letter. The rules respecting passengers and accommodation are copious, but the violation of them subjects the party to nothing more than a penalty of from five to twenty pounds. As to the proportion of the sexes, it is required that one-third shall be females; but the disregard of this enactment subjects the party to no penalty at all. It is, however, enacted, that agreements shall not extend beyond one year, and shall be determinable by either party at three months' notice.

We are happy to learn that the Rev. Mr. Knibb has at length returned to his post. He arrived, together with his friends who accompanied him on his mission, in the barque *Reserve*, on the 8th Jan., and on the following day he was escorted to his residence at Falmouth by an immense concourse of his friends on horseback, to the deep annoyance and mortification, it would seem, of certain parties in that town.—*Colonial Reformer*.

At the St. Catherine's court of quarter sessions, on the 6th of January, Mr. Baynes congratulated the grand jury and the public on the unusual lightness of the calendar; it had, in fact, contained fewer cases than at any sessions within his memory, for the period of nearly seven years, during which he had the honour of sitting on that bench. This was a satisfactory and convincing proof of the moral advantages of a state of freedom, and of the progressive improvement and social advance of the labouring population of this colony, than whom, (he took the present occasion, the last that in all probability be afforded him of bearing witness from that seat) there did not exist a more docile, industrious, or better disposed peasantry on the face of the globe.—*Ibid*.

The lamentable "petition from the inhabitants of the new settlement (free-village) of Porus," which, we see, is carefully quoted by the *Alligator*, turns out to be a fraudulent document, concocted by some enemy of the free-village system.

BARBADOS.—THE AUXILIARY ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY in this island has transmitted the following acknowledgment of the resolutions of the committee, of the parent society of the 17th of July last.

Bridge Town, Barbados, December 14th, 1840.

MY DEAR SIR,—In acknowledging the receipt of your kind letter of the 27th of July, with its enclosure, I am directed by the committee of the Barbados Auxiliary to convey to the committee of the Parent Society, through you, their grateful acknowledgments for the active co-operation and support thus afforded them on, a question of vital importance to the cause of emancipation in these colonies.

As the steps taken by the committee of the auxiliary on the promulgation of the late emigration act of the local legislature unhappily occasioned at the outset an angry division among the members, and exposed the committee to much censure here, not only from the known enemies of freedom, but from some of its supposed friends also: they could not but rejoice to find that the view they had taken of that act was entirely borne out, and their conduct approbated, by the committee of the parent society, in the resolutions of the 17th July, a copy of which was communicated in your letter of the 27th. It will be gratifying to your committee to learn, that Her Majesty's government also had taken the same view of the act, notwithstanding the extraordinary exertions of its framers and supporters to induce a more favourable consideration of its merits. In a despatch to his Excellency the governor, which has just been published, Lord John Russell clearly exposes the vicious tendency of the objectionable clause, and declares, "It is impossible for Her Majesty's government to advise the confirmation of such a law;" adding, that, unless amended or repealed "in the course of the present year," he shall feel it to be his duty to advise its disallowance.

It would give me great pleasure, were I able to communicate for the information of the committee of the parent society, that "the difference among the members of the auxiliary," referred to in your letter, has been "reconciled and forgotten," or was likely soon to be. The committee deeply regret that difference in the first instance, and the continued estrangement of the minority in consequence; but, as it could only have been prevented by the abrogation of the principles and views of the society, and the abandonment of its declared object, they trust that, on a candid review of the subject, even the seceders will attach little blame to them for these occurrences.

Permit me, in conclusion, to apologise on behalf of the auxiliary committee for the delay which has occurred in replying to your letter, and to request that you will present their affectionate regards to the members of the parent committee, and assure them of our sincere prayers for strength and support for them from heaven, in the prosecution of their pious labours on behalf of the slave.

I remain, my dear sir, sincerely and respectfully yours,
(Signed) SAMUEL J. PRESCOD, Secretary.

J. H. Tredgold, Esq.

TRIAL AND CONVICTION OF MR. PRESCOD.—The *Liberal* of December 23rd is entirely occupied with the trial of Mr. Prescod, the editor, for a libel on Mr. Watts, whose activity in getting up a labourers' address to the governor to contradict the statements of Mr. Prescod, may be in the remembrance of our readers. Mr. Prescod was found guilty, and sentenced to three months imprisonment, with a fine of £50, and to give surety in bonds of £100 to keep the peace for twelve months. He conducted his own defence, and, as appears, with eminent temper and ability. Little can be said for the temper of the court. The result, notwithstanding the conviction, is spoken of as a practical triumph of the liberal party. He paid the fine, but remained in gaol only eight days, when his Excellency remitted the remainder of the sentence. Mr. Prescod was attended by an immense concourse of his friends from gaol to his house. At a public meeting on the 28th Dec. the following resolution was unanimously adopted: "That the friends of liberty in this island, having felt a deep sense of regret at the incarceration of their zealous advocate, Samuel Jackman Prescod, consequent on his attempt to refute a calumny gratuitously propagated against him at the expense of the labouring population, are happy to observe that, without any compromise of principle on his or their part, and contrary to their anticipations, he is thus early restored to the society of his family and friends." The planters and their organs have come out with a full cry on Sir Evan Macgregor, whom they call by every insulting name, for releasing Mr. Prescod, the indefatigable champion of liberty, from prison.

MARTINIQUE.—At this island the council had requested the governor to dissolve the board, as the members doubted how far they represented the sense of the people upon the question of emancipation—

the discussion of which was expected to be brought forward shortly. The governor expressed his regret at their request, but acceded to it.—*Trinidad Standard*.

SAINT LUCIA.—Extracts of a letter from a gentleman at St. Lucia, to Joseph Sturge, dated the 25th of December, 1840.—"At the council board of Martinique the question of abolition has recently been mooted, under the auspices of the new governor, Admiral Du Valdailly. Things are approaching a climax there; and, whether peacefully, or amidst terror and bloodshed, the speedy accomplishment of freedom must be the inevitable result. God grant that soon, and by the former, it may come! For the crime, wretchedness, and brutality which weigh down that unhappy colony beggar description. The miserable slaves, who had been buoyed up in hopes that a war with England would bring them freedom, as these decline are relapsing once more into utter despair. Attempts are again making daily by them to escape from the cruelties which encircle them, and about twelve succeeded lately in escaping to this colony, although pursued to its very shores: but who can calculate the far superior number of those who perish in the effort, or are re-captured to suffer even more? The French refugees in this colony are now a numerous body, and rank amongst its most industrious inhabitants.

"This island is in a peaceable and prosperous condition. A more general diffusion of the English language is, however, highly desirable, and would accomplish much improvement. This great object the exertions of the Mico Charity will, I think, ultimately bring to bear; although, at present, there is but a commencement made, and that confined of course to the rising generation. Crime is diminishing everywhere in these colonies, whilst the march of industry, sobriety, and general morality, is rapid and marked. The sugar crop this year will show an increase of nearly forty per cent over last crop, and no where do I hear complaints, either of the deficiency of labour, or of its dearth. Many establishments have already commenced crop, and new, substantial, and expensive sugar establishments are making their animated appearance, whereas manufactures of any sort were scarcely, if at all, known before. Our friend Mr. M. has done, and is doing, much in this way, and sets a splendid example to proprietors generally. I am happy to add, that he is also unwearied in his exertions to increase the comforts, and advance the rising intelligence of the labourers; and I hope very shortly to see, through his efforts, two or three other respectable and well conducted schools established in the island. Sir John Jeremie's friends here, and they are not a few, are delighted to hear of his appointment to Sierra Leone. It is hoped he may long be spared, and be a means to effect much good. This is Christmas day, and our population, all quiet, orderly, and thoughtful, are thronging to the different places of worship with grateful hearts. It is a cheering, yet solemn sight, and to one who, like myself, can from experience compare the present with the past, it affords much food for reflection.—No martial law, no whips and chains, no drunkenness or profanity, distinguish this season now; but, instead, peace, harmony, content, and freedom are with us."

DANISH ISLANDS. [From the *Grenada Free Press*] "The St. Thomas Times of the 21st November contains a royal proclamation, dated 1st of May, 1840, setting forth the conditions under which the "unfree negroes" in the islands under the Danish government, shall be secured from improper treatment, and for rendering more easy the acquisition of their freedom, whenever their full value shall be paid to their masters, either by themselves, or some other persons who may give them assistance for that purpose. Corporal punishment has been reduced to a mere name, and other provisions are made for the gradual emancipation of the slaves without injury to the owner, or any interruption to the present system of agriculture. The royal mandate appears to have been framed in a feeling of justice to both parties, and is evidently based upon the apprenticeship act of the British colonies, in some of its most material points. Whether it will work as badly for the Danish proprietors and their slaves, as it did in these colonies, remains to be seen. It is, however, as with us, intended to pave the way to a state of entire freedom, and raise another altar in this hemisphere to Heaven-born liberty, upon which France, after this noble example, must ere long sacrifice those considerations which keep her so far behind in the race of christian civilization."

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S.—The legislature of this island assembled on the 22nd of December. We make the following extracts from the speech of the governor, Mr. Cunningham:—

"I am happy to congratulate the community on the seasonable rains with which this island has recently been blessed. The drought, however, had been of such long duration throughout the greater portion of the island, that it is to be feared our crop for 1841 will fall short of that of some preceding years. But in no instance have I heard this anticipated falling off attributed to idleness on the part of the labourers, or to an insufficiency of labour. On the contrary, I have every reason to believe that the labouring population are working very steadily, and for reasonable wages, and that there are very few estates indeed, on which the supply of labour does not equal the demand.

"At the same time I am sorry to believe that a certain amount of emigration from this island still prevails. It is painful to hear this, not only because, were such emigration to continue, it must seriously affect the interests of this colony, but because, as I am most credibly informed, those who emigrate from their native dry islands undergo much suffering in the colonies of the south. It is painful also to see the sort of individuals, who, from time to time, make their appearance in this island, and, by raising expectations as imaginary as they are splendid, seduce, in too many cases, the young and inexperienced from their homes and natural protectors. It is still worse when these sordid agents prevail upon heads of families to break through the most sacred domestic ties, and forsake those whom God has committed to their trust.

"But, whilst we deprecate this system of decoy on the part of strangers, it behoves ourselves to be very careful so to minister to the happiness, cheerfulness, and content of our labourers, as that the promises of emigration agents may fall harmless on their ears.

"The happy and contented are not restless, and few but the restless, in the lower walks of life at least, will be disposed to seek their fortunes in a strange land. I have always felt and stated as my opinion, that the present system by which houses and grounds are given in reference to the performance of labour, is likely to prove most injurious in its effects. If proprietors pay the labourers from other estates more than their own people, they must in turn expect their own people to work away from

home. If labourers work away from home, they must expect to be deprived of the advantages which they enjoy at home in part payment of home labour.

"But what are the ultimate consequences? Mutual estrangement ensues—anger on the part of the proprietor, and perhaps ejectment—discontent on the part of the labourer, and perhaps emigration.

"I trust that the proprietary body of this island, whilst I thus simply state my conviction that emigration is more or less connected with the present system of hiring, will feel assured that I wish neither to make complaint nor to pass censure, but to invite calm attention to the adoption of some plan, by which the questions of rent and labour may be placed on a distinct footing—some plan which may render it utterly impossible that any emigrant from hence should have it in his power even to assign summary ejectment as a cause of emigration."

TRINIDAD.—Immigration continues with a steady current.—During the month the number of labourers arrived is 433: of these 390 only had their passages paid by government, this being the number in which the sexes were equal; the remainder had the money advanced to them by planters with whom they entered into arrangements for work. Complaints of a scarcity of hands still reach us, and increase of population has not as yet had the slightest effect upon the price of labour.

A letter from Mr. Burnley stated, that so strong an opposition to emigration had been raised in the northern states of America by the Anti-slavery party, that he should not be able to procure emigrants from that quarter; but that in Virginia, Maryland, and further south, there was not this opposition, and the people were desirous of coming.—*Trinidad Standard.*

BRITISH GUIANA.—The news from this colony is of great importance. Under the influence of Sir Henry McLeod, the Combined Court have passed an act making a satisfactory settlement of the civil list; while Sir Henry has conceded the measures desired for the encouragement of immigration—a loan of £400,000, with the immediate expenditure of the £30,000 in the chest. On this occasion Mr. Young, the government secretary, made a long and very interesting speech, from which we mean to make considerable extracts. It appears that the civil list now accepted is less than that proposed and rejected in May last; and the gist of the government secretary's speech is, that a reduced civil list is not accepted through "an opinion of the instability of the remarkable prosperity which this colony now enjoys." He is thus led to take a general view of the state of the colony, a subject on which, he says, "my acquaintance with the colony, both anterior and subsequent to the great change which emancipation has effected, entitles me to have an opinion." His general opinion is, that "the prospects of the colony are highly satisfactory, and every day renders them more favourable." He then goes into detail, as follows:—"I must advert to that foundation of the prosperity of all countries—the people. And looking around me, what do I see?—The spectacle of a peasantry patient of labour, respectful to their superiors, subordinate to the magistrates, obedient to the laws, content with the obscure walk in life in which Providence has placed them, and finding in it as much, if not more, of happiness than belongs to any more exalted position in society. Yet, Sir, this rational acquiescence with their lot does not degenerate—does not sink them into inactivity. They are still emulous to improve their moral and physical condition, eager to learn, retentive of improvement, industrious to acquire, careful of their gains, and sober in the enjoyment of them. Would to heaven the peasantry all over the world was as meritorious as in Guiana! I confess myself to be perfectly astonished at the few exceptions which can by any possibility be established against the general features of the picture which, albeit with weak colouring, I have feebly drawn."

He then notices the alleged increase of crime in Guiana:—"Those who think that the morality of the people has deteriorated of late—that the people are more vicious—more frequently guilty of crime, are hasty in their conclusions, and superficial in the grounds on which they rest their judgment. The apparent increase of crime is attributable to causes of which the native population of this country are innocent. Of the total number of persons in gaol on the 30th of November last, under sentence, forty-five per cent. are emigrants. Of the total number of persons under sentence for thefts in town, nearly thirty-six per cent. are emigrants. Of the total number of persons under sentence for burglary, twenty-eight per cent. are emigrants. Of the total number of persons under sentence for assaults, seventy-one per cent. are emigrants. Of the total number of persons sentenced by the Supreme Criminal Court, forty-one per cent. are emigrants; by the Inferior Criminal Court, nineteen per cent. are emigrants; by the police magistrate, fifty per cent. are emigrants; and of those at present committed for trial, or whose cases are under investigation, thirty-four and a-half are emigrants. There are five women in gaol, and three of them are emigrants. But, if it be contended that, admitting the influx of immigrants to have swelled our calendar, there is still a vast increase of offences and punishments, the court should be informed of this fact, that the number now in gaol under sentence belonging to Demerara, is not greater than the number of Demerarians under sentence on an average made in reference to the last twenty years. I need not say that private prisons in those days had their inmates, which are now found in the common gaol. Thus those who think that our gaols are fuller now than they used to be, know more of the occurrences of the present day than of the history of the past."

He goes on to say, "Shall I be controverted when I say, that the employer of a free peasantry, by a more equitable distribution of his gains, by a greater diffusion of knowledge and consequent civilization among his dependents, and by an abdication of arbitrary power—has added a security to property, which more than counterbalances a diminished return of agricultural produce? I should expect no such contradiction, even had the increased price of produce not more than compensated for its lessened amount; but when, as now, and for some time past, it has been, and still is notorious, that the value of our exports is undiminished, and the cost of production, if not less, is certainly not more than formerly, I cannot but conclude that there is still less reason to think worse of the condition of the liberal proprietary body of this colony, than of their predecessors. I would fain believe, on the contrary, that, when they contrast past and present times, the increased content, improvement, and happiness of the people, are considered by them to be no insignificant items of the account—no unimportant guarantees for the increase of the population, the peace of society, and the stability of every description of proprietary interest."

Further to show the condition of the proprietors, he adduces the value of the crops. "I have prepared a statement of the value of the crops, for the last fourteen years, in those counties, viz, Demerara and Essequibo, respecting which information was at the moment within my reach. I will read that statement, first premising that the amount of produce is extracted from the returns of the planters themselves, made for purposes of taxation, and, therefore, in my opinion is certainly much under the mark; and that the amount of the produce of 1840 is estimated at 10 per cent more in quantity than the produce of 1839, whilst I verily believe it will be much nearer to an excess of from 15 to 20 per cent. The prices of produce have been extracted from *bond fide* account sales, in the possession of a mercantile gentleman of the highest integrity and respectability, who has been engaged in the purchase of colonial produce in Demerara for the last seventeen years.

"Statement of the value of the crops of Demerara and Essequibo for 14 years, ending 31st December, 1840; calculated on the returns of produce from each estate, as rendered for taxation by the proprietors; the prices ascertained from actual account sales; the produce of 1840, computed at ten per cent more in quantity than the produce of 1839.

Years.	Value of Crop in Pounds sterling.	Years.	Value of Crop in Pounds sterling.
	£. s. d.		£. s. d.
1827	1,459,010 0 0	1834	1,141,343 6 8
1828	1,369,129 18 7	1835	1,421,425 5 3
1829	1,421,278 2 1	1836	2,302,785 12 3
1830	1,067,327 9 3	1837	1,618,127 3 5
1831	964,030 17 1	1838	1,173,107 14 2
1832	1,131,985 8 8	1839	1,023,784 2 9
1833	1,498,952 7 8	1840	1,573,311 15 5

"The average value of the crops of Demerara and Essequibo, during fourteen years, is £1,368,971. The positive value of the crop of 1840, on the above low computation, £1,573,311. The largest quantity of produce was made in 1829, and the crop of 1840 much exceeds in value that of 1829."

He then adverts to the market value of estates, and chastises the noisy prophets of evil. "I shall now advert to the sales of estates which have recently been effected, as criteria by which to judge of the estimated security or decay of property. I shall not specify the large prices paid for land by the lower orders, nor the yet larger prices expected from them in some further purchases which they once contemplated. I confine myself to the investment of large capitals. I allude to the very recent sales of Montrose for £38,500, which, in 1837, was valued by Messrs. George Rainy, Collin Simson, and James Chapman, for £26,000; plantation Ogle for £26,000, which, by the same appraisers, was valued in 1831 for £20,000; plantation Bel Air, £20,000, Success, £30,000; Wales, £30,000; Vreed-en-hoop, £35,000, with £2000 more for the services of the Coolies for two years; Kitty, for £26,000, which, in 1819, with slaves, sold for £22,000; Malgre Tout, for £36,000; Richmond, for £35,000. I think from these sales a fair estimate of the value of estates may be formed. I prefer such data to any statements or averments whatsoever. Purchases, or offers to purchase, and refusals to sell, are as useful for ascertaining the real value of property, as the stethoscope is for ascertaining the condition of a patient supposed to be suffering from consumption. Tried by this test, the decay of property seems not quite so imminent; the age of property cannot yet have dwindled to its shortest span; its dissolution is at least not expected to take place by learned and experienced doctors—the practical planters of the colony—before the repayment of the large sums which I have mentioned as the prices of the estates named. Sir, I have said that I prefer such tests as these to the most elaborate calculations, to the most plausible opinions of practical men, and to the most affecting descriptions of ruin and decay, which, by no means for the first time in the history of Guiana, are now so rife. I believe the prices actually paid for estates to be substantial proofs of their value; I look upon them as the declarations of a deliberate judgment pronounced by competent judges, under the heaviest of pecuniary responsibilities; and whilst to those gentlemen who are of a contrary opinion I attribute no want of sincerity—I desire to mislead—I must, nevertheless, say that, in my opinion, an over eager desire to attract the attention of parliament to the advantage of recruiting our labouring population has, unconsciously perhaps, led them to conclusions respecting the condition of landed property in this country, which are not only proved to be hasty and erroneous by the numerous sales which I have quoted, but have proved wholly inaccurate in the special instances which were cited and relied on as illustrations of their general predictions. I will read to you a statement made by one of the most influential colonists in Guiana; a statement coupled too with a prediction, which not only appears to have caused a great sensation here on the spot, but, to my certain personal knowledge, excited no less interest—nay, I may say, consternation amongst the Demerarians in London;—not only because of the quarter from whence it came—not only because it emanated from an honorable gentleman at the head of the Mammoth bank of the colonies in Guiana; not only because of his position as a leading and influential member of their court; not only because of his being himself the proprietor of a plantation: but because also of the business like accuracy of the figures on which the honorable gentleman rested his conclusions. I will read to you the prediction:—

"There was an estate near town possessing every advantage that could be desired to facilitate labour and to encourage the labourers, which in August, 1832, had 614 labourers, by whom 220 hogsheds of sugar were made in the first six months of that year: for the same period of this year, with 440 labourers, it had only made thirty-nine hogsheds; and the falling off in next year's produce would be still greater. (Hear, hear.) The estate to which he alluded was Rome and Houston, where everything had been done to promote the moral and religious instruction of the labourers."

Sir, this estate, so far from falling off this year, as was predicted, has of late been making sugar at the rate, not of 39 hds. for six months, but at the rate of 140 hds. for one month; not at the rate of 220 hds. for 6 months, as in the year 1832, the year quoted, the year of slavery, but at the rate of nearly 600 hds. per annum: which has been the crop of 1840, and that of 1841 will be not less than 700 hds. The disheartening pros-

pects of 1839 were attributed the unsteady working of the people; to the results of emancipation. Sir, I think myself more than justified in saying that the conduct of the people has been unreasonably arraigned; the character or results of freedom unjustly aspersed. At least, Sir, I claim this admission, that, if the same opinions are now retained which were expressed in November, 1839, in the quotation of the speech which I have read, the condition of plantation Rome and Houston, so far from being corroborative of their accuracy, does most utterly prove their entire fallacy; and I have no doubt that, with the candour and straightforwardness which are so universally attributed to the hon. member, he will feel it to be his duty to take an opportunity of expressing his great satisfaction, that the alarming and prophetic picture which he drew of plantation Rome and Houston has happily not been verified by subsequent events. I will pass from this topic with but one additional observation, and that is suggested by the results of a change of system at plantation Rome and Houston shortly after the delivery of the honorable member's memorable and pathetic prediction. I am, and long have been, of opinion, that we are too much accustomed in this colony, and in other parts of the West Indies, to look beyond ourselves for aid, in those ordinary difficulties and embarrassments which occasionally attach themselves to landed property in every country under the sun. One while we blame the inconstancy of the labourers; then the parent government; and next, and more frequently still, the local government; but, Sir, as a celebrated American—Dr. Channing—has beautifully and truly said, "government resembles the wall which surrounds our lands; a needful protection—but rearing no harvests, ripening no fruits. It is the individual who must choose whether the enclosure shall be a paradise or a waste." And how strikingly is not this illustrated in the case of plantation Rome and Houston? The decay to which it was supposed to be hastening has been proved to be owing, neither to the policy of the government, nor to the impossibility of obtaining continuous labour—for experience has shewn that that which could not be accomplished by the attorneys of Hyndman, had been successfully worked out by the spirit, intelligence, perseverance, and liberal, (because prudent) management of the present resident proprietor, Mr. R. M. Jones. A state of ruin and decay has been converted, as by a magician's wand, into a state of princely and secure prosperity! Sir, I will give but one more instance of the little dependence that can be put on the most plausible statements respecting the condition of property, although made, as I have before remarked, with all sincerity and honesty; and how much wiser it is, therefore, to take as our criteria the substantial proofs which the sales of estates afford. If my memory does not greatly fail me, I have seen an elaborate calculation made in 1839, by one of the cleverest practical planters in the colony, in which the constantly increasing abstraction of labour was—I had almost said proved—but was represented to have such an effect on the cultivation, as to afford but little hopes that the estate would survive more than three years. This affecting anticipation of a plantation in a state of rapid and hopeless decline is, however, apparently dissipated—the consumptive property has been subjected to the stethoscope test, an offer of purchase has been made and accepted; and it is now generally believed, at least I may infer that it is believed by the purchasers—that the melancholy event of its dissolution will not take place before the re-payment of the £35,080, which was the price paid for it; and I am happy to add, that he who once thought himself justified in pronouncing so unfavourable an opinion of the longevity of the property, has himself become the half owner of it, at the large price I have named. In what I have hitherto stated, my object has been to show that the colony has not sustained the decline of prosperity which is supposed to exist. I will now turn from the proofs which I have adduced that the colony has sustained no injury by the act of emancipation, to the numerous proofs which exist, on the other hand, that there are new and gratifying symptoms of gradual and unprecedented improvement. I allude to the realization of one of the happiest effects, next to personal liberty, which the warmest friends of emancipation expected to follow, from that great measure. There is a vast and useful local diffusion of that wealth, which formerly was expended out of the colony by non-resident proprietors. Our resident proprietors are increasing in number; our exports and imports are undiminished in value; indeed, of the imports there is a vast increase in quantity as well as in value; three hundred thousand dollars per month are circulated in payment of wages to agricultural servants; and the excess of profits over expenditure is not now remitted, as once it was, across the Atlantic, but finds a safe and profitable local investment in objects of general colonial utility; a local bank with a large paid up capital; with large deposits, with an increasing reserved fund; steam navigation; Marine, Life, and Fire Insurance companies; the attention of agriculturists rivetted on devices to substitute mechanical power for manual labour; steamers on the rivers Demerara, Mahaica, Essequibo, and Berbice; new ferries; new warehouses in town and country; new villages; a metropolis whose wealth is estimated at a low computation, by his worship the mayor, at not less than four millions sterling; wages high; an ample revenue, no pressure of taxation. To represent such a state of things to be one of uncertainty, gloom, melancholy, or distress, must certainly indicate the existence in honourable members of extraordinary tragic talents, and power.

*Conspicit arcem
Ingeniis opibusque, et festa pace virentem,
Visque tenet lacrymas, quia nil lacrymabile cernit."*

ENSLAVING NATIVE INDIANS.—The *Guiana Times* contains the proceedings in the case of Mrs. Spencer, alias Henry, who was tried on the 2nd of December, on a charge of holding in slavery an Indian woman, named Rosina. She was acquitted; and two other charges of the same kind were similarly disposed of. There have been shameful doings, however, at the posts up the river, notwithstanding this verdict.

SPAIN.

Private letters announce that the statements published by Messrs. Alexander and Wiffen, were producing a considerable sensation. Two of the papers in the town of Valentia had opened their columns to the advocacy of abolition.

At a meeting of the Independent Church assembling in Marshall Street Chapel, Holbeck, in the parish of Leeds, under the pastoral care of the Rev. John Cummins, It was unanimously Resolved,—

That to show our utter abhorrence of all slavery throughout the world, we will not admit to the Lord's table amongst us any whom we know to be slave-owners, or hold communion with them in their own churches.

CORRECTIONS IN OUR LAST.

SLAVERY IN CUBA.—Page 34, "Among the punishments inflicted, are the privation of dinner and the dungeon"—should read, "the privation of dinner, the dungeon and the lash."

Page 35, "The age of slaves imported is generally from twelve to twenty-five years; probably one-third are males"—should read "two-thirds."

Communications for the Editor of the *Anti-slavery Reporter* should be addressed to the Anti-slavery Office, 27, New Broad Street, London.

Anti-Slavery Reporter.

LONDON, FEBRUARY 24TH.

THE westerly winds have brought us in such an accumulation of intelligence, and much of it is so important, that we have been constrained to devote to it a large part of our present number.

We are sure that corresponding sympathy will be felt in this country, with that which now so deeply agitates the friends of humanity in the United States, respecting the Africans captured in the *Amistad*. The attention of our readers will be well bestowed on an article from the other side of the Atlantic on the British commercial treaty with Texas.

From the West Indies the intelligence is on the whole gratifying. Some amendments have certainly been made by the legislature of Jamaica in the laws of the preceding session, and in the marriage act among them; but no opinion can be safely expressed until the new laws, fifty-six in number, are printed. The new immigration act appears as an advertisement in the *Alligator*.

Another scene in the drama of oppression versus liberty has been enacted in Barbados, by the trial of our friend and fellow-labourer, Mr. Prescod, for a libel. In such hands his conviction followed of course. Promptly do we assure him, however, that he has risen, rather than fallen, in the estimation of all whose opinion he values, by the course he has pursued. Expecting no acquittal, he made his trial subservient to the advocacy of the cause of freedom in the midst of its adversaries; and for it he has thus gained a popular triumph, of infinitely greater value than the legal triumph of his enemies. We learn by a private letter, that, after his imprisonment, it was suggested to him to petition for the remission of this part of his sentence, a measure of humiliation which he promptly and nobly declined. Subsequently the governor remitted it without petition; assigning as his reason the delicate state of Mr. Prescod's health, but really actuated, no doubt, by far weightier considerations. The persecuted champion of liberty was triumphantly conducted to his house by a mixed multitude of about 2000 persons, watched by a strong body of police, but not interrupted by them. The influence of these proceedings on a large number of the respectable whites is, and is likely to be, most salutary.

The most important intelligence from this quarter, however, is that which announces the settlement of the long pending dispute between the government and the court of policy at British Guiana. Upon this occasion the honourable H. F. Young, the government secretary, made a speech, which we may characterize as altogether remarkable, and highly valuable. It is a survey of the state of the colony, which he declares to be eminently prosperous; and he exhibits the clamorous croakers as children who are determined to cry, although they can find nothing to cry for. Alas! for the pet colony of these tearful gentry! Will they be constrained at last to wipe their weeping eyes?

WE mentioned in our last, that the Committee of the British and Foreign Anti-slavery Society, were in correspondence with Lord John Russell respecting the new system of emigration from Sierra Leone to the West Indies, and that we hoped to be able to state, on official authority, what we had then the pleasure of announcing on private information. We are sorry to say that we are disappointed. The noble secretary for the colonies, has directed Mr. Vernon Smith to answer the letter of the committee in a way which fails of affording us the gratifying assurance we had anticipated.

Such of our readers as may take the trouble to peruse it, may perhaps think his lordship's reply wanting in courtesy. Our regret is, that when, as we know, Lord John Russell has taken the pains to frame judicious instructions for the emigration of Africans from Sierra Leone, he should not have availed himself of an unexceptionable opportunity of saying so.

27, New Broad Street, 4th February, 1841.

TO THE RIGHT HONORABLE LORD JOHN RUSSELL.

My Lord,—The attention of the Committee of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society, having been directed to the despatch addressed by your lordship, to Sir Charles Metcalfe, and other governors of the West India colonies, referring to the removal of the Maroons, and other able-bodied natives of Africa from Sierra Leone, to those colonies; and having obtained information that one or more vessels are now fitting out in this country, under the direction of gentlemen from Jamaica now residing here, to be followed by others from that colony and Trinidad; they would earnestly, yet respectfully, call your lordship's attention to the evils which are likely to result, under present circumstances, from this measure.

1st. While the committee deeply regret that any of the Maroons, or liberated Africans at Sierra Leone should be in such circumstances, as to render their removal from that colony desirable, if not absolutely necessary, they deprecate their removal to any of the British colonies, because they fear it may be drawn into a precedent by other nations, who, under the plea of recruiting their military forces in the colonies, may pass negroes

through their settlements in Africa as free emigrants, when, in point of fact, they may be purchased slaves, as in the late cases of Holland and France. By this means the treaties with these powers may be violated to a certain extent, and Africans transported as soldiers, or as free labourers, may merge into the slave populations of their respective colonies.

2nd. Because the persons who may be removed will undoubtedly be employed in the cultivation of sugar, the most laborious and deadly of all agricultural employments, which may prove greatly destructive of their health and lives, unless expressly regulated by law until they are fully acclimated, and regularly trained to that species of toil.

3rd. Because it does not appear that any regulations have been insisted upon, either with respect to the tonnage and character of the vessels to be employed in the removal of them to the colonies, or the number of emigrants to be put on board such vessels, or the quantity and quality of food and water to be provided for them, or the medical attendance that may be requisite during the voyage.

4th. Because no provision appears to be made for securing an equal number of the sexes as emigrants, a point of the greatest importance, as connected with the morals and comfort of those who may be removed, and, indeed, to the future prosperity of the colonies.

5th. Because no suitable arrangements appear to have been insisted on as necessary on their arrival in the colonies, either with respect to their accommodation, their food, or their health.

6th. Because the immigration laws of Jamaica, which have been so very properly condemned by your lordship, afford no guarantee against fraudulent contracts on the part of the planters, or security to the emigrants against oppression and wrong.

For these reasons the committee would earnestly entreat your lordship to suspend the permission granted to the colonists to remove these people from Sierra Leone to the West Indies, until at least the laws of the legislative colonies are assimilated to those of the crown colonies regulating contracts, as under the order in council of the 7th September, 1838, and the regulations of the British passengers' act for the protection of emigrants be extended to Sierra Leone.—I have the honour to be, my Lord, your Lordship's most obedient humble servant,

J. H. TREDGOLD, Secretary.

REPLY.

Downing Street February 11th, 1841.

SIR,—I am directed by Lord John Russell to acknowledge the receipt of the letter which you addressed to this department on the 4th instant, by direction of the committee of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society, respecting immigration to the West Indies from the colony of Sierra Leone.

Lord John Russell desires me to state, for the information of the committee, that his lordship is sorry to differ with them, but he thinks emigrants are more likely to be free in our own colonies, than in those of nations who still maintain slavery.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

(Signed)

R. VERNON SMITH.

J. H. TREDGOLD, Esq.

We are now able to state, that some most respectable shareholders in the Imperial Brazilian Mining Association have put themselves into communication with the directors, in relation to the purchase and holding of slaves by that body. We are sorry to learn that the directors have not evinced the readiness which might have been expected from English gentlemen and British subjects to relinquish an attitude, which involves at once the legal guilt of felony, and the moral criminality of oppression. The shareholders at large, however, will now shortly be appealed to; and we cannot allow ourselves to question for a moment what their decision will be. The inquiries which have been made have elicited one fact, which, we are sure, will excite the deepest astonishment and regret. It appears that, with between four and five hundred slaves their property, the directors have never received any report of the punishments inflicted on them. This one fact speaks volumes.

The crowded state of our columns to-day will not allow us to insert a letter which we have received from Mr. Kentish, in reply to the last of Colonel Skerrett. The substance is, that the statements which the colonel contradicts were currently made in Gongo, in the presence of his three nephews, without being contradicted by them; and that he has full reason to confide in the intimations he receives of what passes among the directors. The village where the slave Bonifacio was murdered was not Soboliero, but Taboliero.

AFRICANS RELEASED FROM CAPTURED SLAVERS.

On Saturday, the 13th inst., the following memorial on the condition of the liberated Africans in Cuba, Brazil, and Surinam, was presented to Lord Palmerston, by a deputation from the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society, composed of the following gentlemen, Messrs. Josiah Forster, George W. Alexander, John Beaumont, Joseph Cooper, Samuel Fox, Stafford Allen, Josiah Conder, J. H. Tredgold, and John Scoble, viz. :—

MEMORIAL.

TO THE RIGHT HON. LORD PALMERSTON, &c. &c.

MY LORD—The Committee of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society are deeply sensible of the efforts which her Majesty's government, and especially which your lordship in that important department over which your lordship presides, have made for the entire suppression of the foreign slave-trade, by entering into friendly treaties with different nations for the accomplishment of that most necessary and desirable object. And, whatever may be their general views of the inefficiency of all such treaties, arising from the vast demand for slaves, the enormous profits attending the guilty traffic, and the bad faith of the governments interested or implicated in its continuance; and, though they have the most entire conviction that only the uni-

versal abolition of slavery will secure its complete termination, they most cheerfully and gratefully acknowledge those efforts, as evincing on the part of your lordship, and of your lordship's distinguished colleagues, a sincere desire to extinguish an evil which has so long desolated Africa, and afflicted and disgraced mankind.

But, my lord, it must be confessed with grief, that, whilst the great object contemplated by those treaties has been defeated by the daring enterprise of unprincipled men, stimulated by the lust of gain, and the great evil has increased, both in extent and horror, under the very system to which the government has resorted to subdue it; so also have the collateral benefits which were anticipated to have resulted from them been defeated, to a very great extent, by the indifference of governments in treaty with Great Britain to the claims of humanity and justice, and to the faith of treaties, or by direct and culpable connivance in practices which have rendered nugatory the designs of the government.

It was unquestionably the design of the government that the captured Africans, liberated by sentence of the mixed commission courts in Cuba, Brazil, and Surinam, kept up at a heavy cost to this country, should, after a certain period of apprenticeship, merge, with their respective descendants into the free population of these respective countries; but your lordship is painfully aware, that, of the many thousands who have been so liberated since the establishment of those courts, only those who have been rescued by the direct interference of the government at the Havana are now in the possession of their liberty.

The sympathy which the committee feel for these doubly wronged individuals, and the sorrow with which they contemplate their hard fate, is mixed with feelings of indignation against the parties who have thus defrauded them of their just rights, as well as against the governments which could allow this state of things to exist; and the more so, when they consider that in addition to the vast expenditure of their own government, in keeping a fleet of cruisers on the coast of Africa for the suppression of the slave-trade, a large bounty has been paid to the captors of these wretched Africans, and an expensive machinery instituted to deliver them from bondage, without, after all, securing to them their personal liberty, or preventing their becoming the most helpless and abject of slaves. And thus, my lord, unfortunately, arrangements founded in benevolence, though not in wisdom, as the melancholy result has so fully proved, have operated as a bonus to slaveholders, and have increased the victims of the slave-trade.

In addition to the proofs already before your lordship on this painful subject, the committee would respectfully call your lordship's attention to the following extracts of letters in their possession. The first is dated "Rio," &c., and is as follows, viz. :—

Extract of a letter from Rio Janeiro, dated 5th September, 1840.

"My last communications may not, in all probability, reach London very long before this; yet, as one subject has much pressed on my mind, viz. the necessity of, if possible, preventing the continuance of the system of apprenticing in Rio the negroes captured by the British cruisers, I am induced to write again sooner than I otherwise should have done. Unhappily, by this system being pursued, all that is effected by this capture is the actual loss to the trader, the poor apprentice is as much a slave as though he had been clandestinely landed; and, doubtless, the proprietors of estates are very glad to get hands at so cheap a rate, and thus reserve their capital for the purchase of more, as occasion offers. Indeed, so much valued is the advantage, that it requires no small influence with those in authority to obtain the apprentices; thus the estate where I now reside has many, but the owner of the same is father-in-law to the Ex Regent, who is of course now out of office from the accession of the emperor. But to return to the actual condition of these unhappy apprentices, who differ not in the smallest degree from the regularly purchased slave. Why, it is notorious, that, when any slave dies belonging to the parties possessing these apprentices, an apprentice is reported dead, (nay, it is declared that they will purchase a dead body for the purpose) whereas he is substituted for the dead slave, and henceforth becomes the undisputed property of the proprietor and his heirs; of course, if the party be a female, slavery is entailed on her issue."

The writer of the foregoing paragraph, after adverting to the capture of the 'Paquete de Bengala' by Her Majesty's ship 'Wizard,' on the 29th October last, having on board 284 negroes, states 'that these poor Africans are actually to be apprenticed here; say rather to be enslaved.'

Extract of a letter, dated Cape of Good Hope, November 14th, 1840

"I suppose you know that the men-of-war belonging to the Cape station are on the look out for slavers, both on the west and east coast. When captured, they are sent for adjudication to some British port, if convenient, but, if not convenient, then to Rio. If sent to a British port, the ships are broken up; but if to Rio, they are sold. When slaves are taken, they are condemned to the crown, and apprenticed to the inhabitants for three or four years. At Rio the vessels are not broken up, and frequently leave the port in a week or two after they have been sold through the admiralty court, to pursue the iniquitous traffic. As to the captured slaves, the persons to whom they are apprenticed are bound to report any who may die in their service. By bribery they obtain certificates from the priests, that certain negroes died and were buried by them. The deaths are duly registered, and the negroes counted for dead. The poor creatures being very ignorant are easily imposed upon, and know nothing of the expiration of

their apprenticeship; when that period arrives, if any inquiries are made by the officials, the priest's certificates are produced. The negroes are dead; their curators are discharged, and in due course, the negroes become a part of the goods and chattels of the worthy inhabitants."

Now, when we think that the officers and crews of the men-of-war receive a bounty for every slave landed, it is too bad that these atrocities should be tolerated, and slavery perpetuated at the expense of the British government.

But the committee trust they may rejoice in the fact, that these oppressed people are still under the protection of the British government, that their freedom is guaranteed by solemn treaties, and that, in the legitimate exercise of the influence and power with which your lordship is invested, they may yet be rescued from the degradation and misery into which they have been plunged, and placed in such circumstances as shall secure to them the privileges of freemen. Effectually to accomplish this, however, the committee do humbly conceive they should be transferred as early as possible to the British colonies.

In conclusion, the committee would respectfully urge on your lordship the necessity of taking immediate steps to secure to the liberated Africans in Brazil, and in Surinam, as well as in Cuba, the rights which accrue to them under treaties with the respective governments of these countries; to provide for their early removal to the British colonies; and, further, to make arrangements for the proper disposal of any Africans who may be found on board of captured slavers, by directing the condemnation of all such vessels in one or other of the vice-admiralty courts established in Her Majesty's colonies.

(Signed) JOSIAH CONDER, Chairman,

27, New Broad Street, London, 6th February, 1841.

The deputation was received by his lordship with his usual courtesy and kindness, and several papers were read, and statements made by him, to show that the subject had received the attention of the government, and that, for several years past, negotiations had been going on with the government of Spain, Brazil, and Holland, for the purpose of realizing the objects contemplated in the memorial. With Spain the government had been so far successful as to secure, for the Africans liberated by the mixed commission at the Havana since the year 1835, their transport to British colonies, where they were now in the enjoyment of their liberty, under the protection of British laws. With the Brazilian government the government had not hitherto been equally successful, although that government, several years since, had expressed its willingness that the liberated Africans should be removed to the British colonies; and similar negotiations had been entered into with the Dutch government, for the protection of the same class of persons in Surinam. His lordship frankly stated, that there was too much reason to fear that the allegations contained in the Memorial were true, that the liberated Africans were reduced to a state of slavery; but assured the deputation that government would follow up the measures it had already taken to rescue them from bondage. His lordship stated the number of African slaves liberated previously to 1835 in Cuba, and therefore to be accounted for by the Spanish government, was about 8000; the number in Brazil about 4000; and the number in Surinam 50, with their descendants.

The deputation seized the opportunity of pressing upon his lordship the critical position of the negroes of the *Amistad*, whose fate by this time has probably been decided by the American government; and were assured by him that he would lose no time in pressing the subject on the Spanish government, for the purpose of securing them the protection to which they were entitled under treaties with this country.

In alluding to the extensive prevalence of the slave-trade, his lordship said he had reason to hope, that, from the more stringent character of the treaties for its suppression which had been negotiated by the British government with Foreign powers, it had received a considerable check yet that he conceived these were but palliatives at the best, and that the only effective method of suppressing the slave-trade, was the abolition of slavery throughout the world.

Lord Palmerston, who, together with Lord Clarendon, had most kindly favoured Mr. Alexander with such introductions as might be serviceable to him in his late journey in Spain, received from that gentleman, not merely with politeness, but with evident interest, an account of its results in connexion with the anti-slavery cause. He expressed his opinion, also, that armaments and treaties were but palliatives of the slave-trade, its extinction being attainable only by the extermination of slavery itself.

TEXAS LAND COMPANY.

To the Editor of the *Anti-Slavery Reporter*.

SIR,—In the last number of your journal you have inserted a letter from Mr. Maillard on the subject of Texas, and of the board which has been recently established in London to promote the settlement of that country by emigrants from England; I hope, therefore, that in fairness you will allow me an opportunity of saying a few words in answer to that gentleman, and of correcting at the outset one or two mistakes into which he has fallen.

1. It was an error to assert that General Hamilton was in London when the last number of your journal appeared; he was, in truth, in Paris, and, although daily expected in London, he has not yet returned.

2. Connected with General Hamilton's absence is the delay which has occurred in replying to the statements quoted and adopted by Mr. Maillard

from the *Morning Post*. These will receive an answer, no doubt, as soon as the General returns.

Having touched upon these points, I will reply *seriatim*, in the absence of General Hamilton, to the questions put by Mr. Maillard.

1. The first question embodies an assertion which is incorrect. It states that the Texan board have represented themselves as having an accredited agent in Texas, this is not true: the Texan board have stated that "agents will be appointed at Galveston," and that measures are in progress for that purpose; but they have not stated that such an agent has yet been appointed. After this error, Mr. Maillard inquires, "whether any Texan citizen or foreigner dares to undertake in Texas an agency established upon anti-slavery principles, and, if he does so, what will be his fate?" Although this question is merely speculative, the Texan board reply, that one of their own members intends, in the course of a few months, to take such an agency upon himself; and they have no doubt that a gentleman will very shortly be appointed at Galveston to take it in the meanwhile.

2. Mr. Maillard asks, "how would British emigrants be received in Texas, if it were known that they entertained anti-slavery principles; and would not their lives and property be endangered?" In reply, the Texan board have no hesitation in declaring their own belief, that a regard to the best interests of Texas would induce the government of that country to abolish slavery; that any British emigrants impressed with this belief, and expressing it in good faith and with good sense in Texas, would be well received; and that their lives and property would not be in danger.

3. I have looked in vain through the volume of the laws of Texas, published at Houston in 1838, for the law mentioned by Mr. Maillard as punishing the simplest anti-slavery movement with death; I cannot find any such law, and I cannot believe in its existence. The African slave trade has already been declared to be piracy, and convictions have taken place under that law. The introduction of slaves into Texas is not allowed except from the United States, and that only on the most limited and partial scale. Among the laws I find are some for the relief of free Africans which would lead me to infer that the spirit of legislation towards the negro population is already liberal, and may be rendered more so.

4. Mr. Maillard asks, "whether it would be safe or possible for an emigrant, or body of emigrants, to locate themselves on lands west of San Antonio de Bexar? which is situated," says he, "on the frontier of the Comanche Indians' territory." The assertion at the conclusion of this question admits of an easy answer. If Mr. Maillard will refer to the President's last message, he will see that the country around St. Antonio de Bexar has been lately cleared of the Comanche Indians by General Rusk. Equally unavailing is the reference in the *Morning Post* to the Mexicans. At the present moment it is probable that a treaty of pacification and boundary between Mexico and Texas is under consideration at Mexico. Again, if Mr. Maillard will refer to the best authorities respecting Bexar, he will find that that town is the oldest Spanish garrison or settlement in Texas, and that it contains a population of 3500 souls. The lands of the board in this district are protected by their vicinity to Bexar, a town which is valuable both as a garrison and a market, and the board have no doubt that a body of emigrants, large or small, might settle upon those lands with equal safety and advantage.

5. The Texan board are not aware, and cannot believe, that clergymen in Texas are prohibited from preaching the gospel to negroes. It is scarcely possible to imagine a law which would be more injurious than this to the Texan proprietors themselves; and its folly is such that the board cannot believe in its existence.

With the private opinions of Mr. Maillard as to the impracticability of abolishing slavery in Texas, and the unchangeableness of the prejudices which he alleges to exist on this subject, the Texan board have no intention to interfere. They have commenced operations upon their own principles, and are determined, if possible, to carry those principles into operation. *Dimidium facti qui cepit habet*. They refer with pleasure to the example of Ohio, one of the neighbouring states of the union, in which slavery has been abolished; and to that of Kentucky, in which it would have been abolished but for the indiscretion of the abolitionists. As, on the one hand, there is nothing more dangerous than zeal without prudence, so, on the other, *Nullum in verba abest, si sit prudentia*. In our own country, there are two classes of allies against whom the abolitionists ought to be on their guard; viz: the Roman Catholics, and the Mexican bondholders. Whatever differences of opinion may exist among these men, in one respect they are united: viz, in wishing to see the government of Mexico re-established in Texas. The one looks to the ascendancy of his religion, and the other to the price of his stock; yet both of them affect to oppose the independence of Texas under the banner of Anti-slavery principles.

*Non tali auxilio, nec defensoribus istis
Tempus eget.*

In the opinion of the Texan Board, it is scarcely possible to conceive conduct more unwise and impolitic, than that of those Englishmen who would resist the independence of Texas. That republic in the south is in England what Canada is in the north; indeed, it may be rendered far more valuable to us than Canada. By the law of nations, we had no better right to make the abolition of slavery in Texas a condition precedent to the recognition of its independence, than any state in Europe would have had to pass a non-intercourse act against us, during the existence of slavery in our own colonies. The origin of slavery in Texas cannot be justified, but it may be extenuated from the overwhelming necessity of the circumstances under which it commenced. Mr. Maillard will find these circumstances fairly stated in the *Colonial Magazine*, for January, 1841. We lament its origin, and rejoice that there is no necessity for its continuance. Let us avail ourselves of this last circumstance to promote its abolition; at the same time, let us act with good temper. I am happy to see that Mr. Maillard gives us credit for sincerity. How could he do otherwise? Our chairman is a West India proprietor, who possesses two estates on which the slaves have been freed, and who would rejoice to see that done in Texas which has been done in Barbados. Can we offer a better proof of sincerity? He that is not with us is against us; and it would be a singular anomaly to find the Anti-slavery Society in the ranks of our enemies. I remain, Sir, your obedient humble servant,

HENRY PRATER, Sec.

Texas Land and Emigration Board, Exeter Hall, 15th Feb. 1841.

* It is proper to state, that the extract from the *Morning Post* was not sent by Mr. Maillard, nor in any way connected with his letter, except by juxta position from similarity of subject.—Ed.

SONNET

ON THE DEATH OF JOHN STURGE, ESQ., OF BIRMINGHAM.

Gentle, and good, and great—whom death hath bound
Fast in his mute cold cell—ill spare we thee
From holy warfare, where thou erst wast found,
In armour on the field of liberty!
Thou hadst a heart as tender as would grace
Fair woman's lovelier breast. Thou hadst a mind
That led the van in the imperial race
For truth and wisdom, round thy brows to bind.
'Twas thine to give to poor estateless youth
Knowledge and virtue, life's most precious dower;
To break the bondman's fetters by the truth,
That freedom's labour in the greatest power.
But thou hast left these labours for yon world of bliss:
Wife, kindred, all who knew thee, mourn for thee in this!

SLAVERY IN MARTINIQUE.

The following notices of the treatment of slaves in this French colony, are taken from a work recently published in Paris, entitled, "*Souvenirs d'un Creole sur la Martinique*," written by M. Fauvel Gouraud, a white gentleman born in the island, and, it would appear, a planter. The work has been highly praised in one of the principal Parisian reviews, and its author described as a man of excellent qualities, who has written only what he himself has seen. He writes thus:—

"One afternoon, passing through this plantation on my way to the Quartier du François, I called at the house, for the purpose of having a little chat with Madame la Marquise de Bellegarde, and the Chevalier de * * *. This lady was not given to the reading of romances. 'These fooleries,' said she to me, 'corrupt the minds of young women.' She possessed a little library of eight volumes of the works of Voltaire, and, on each occasion that I visited her, I was always sure of finding one of these volumes in her hand.

"It was near five o'clock when I alighted from my horse, at the door of the house. After having given orders to the two black servants who accompanied me not to unbridle the horses, or place them in the stable, I immediately entered the mansion. This time I did not find the Marquise reading her favourite Voltaire; but holding in her hand a large and beautiful telescope, which enabled her to watch the negroes at work in the garden, without leaving the house. I had surprised her intensely occupied in looking through the jalousies of that part of the house where she stood, to one particular spot of the plantation. She was so absorbed as not to perceive me, for at least ten minutes after my arrival. On my uttering the words 'I have caught you,' she turned her head towards me, exhibiting some degree of alarm. 'Ah! what are you doing there?' I said. 'What are you looking at, Madame, which appeared to cause you so much pleasure?' 'Pleasure?' she replied; 'if it be one, it costs us dear. You know that we are ruined, and that we have lost in a little time sixty negroes, and more mules and oxen than that.' 'Yes, Madame,' I replied, 'I have learnt with grief the misfortunes which have happened to you. But where is the chevalier?' 'He is at present much occupied. Here, if you would see him, take this telescope, and direct it to the point where you will see men on horseback, and you will learn what he is doing.'

"Having directed the telescope to the point indicated by the Marquise, a frightful trembling seized me. 'How horrible!' I cried, the glass falling from my hands. I felt myself fainting, and I approached a chair for support. I cast my eyes on the woman I had seen, only two minutes before, wrapped in enjoyment, while looking at the same object which had caused me so much emotion. 'What an abomination!' said I to her. 'Why, Madame, is it M * * *, a white, a European, that I have just seen goading a bullock to make him move, that he may drag after him a miserable negro, by the cord fixed round his horns and tied to the negro's leg?' In short, I had seen six vigorous oxen, incited by six whites, or rather six torturers, engaged in tearing a poor African limb from limb, on suspicion that he had poisoned the blacks who had perished in plantation Bellegarde. This was the second negro that had suffered this horrible death, and a third was subjected to the same torments, as I afterwards heard.

"Though Madame Bellegarde entreated me to join the party who were assisting the chevalier * * * to quarter his slaves alive who were suspected of poisoning, I decided on quitting the house at once. I called for my horses, and left a few minutes after, never to return thither."

In the same volume, M. Fauvel Gouraud records the particulars of an interview between a Mr. Charles Wale, an English gentleman, and a M. F. du Vaulin, at which he was present, as follows:—"Charles Wale rose, and looking at * * * with indignation, said, 'I know you, Sir, as well as you know yourself, and I know that you are a coward and an assassin, and that you are capable of any villany. Two months have not passed since you interred alive one of your domestics. You ordered him to dig his grave; he dug it by your orders, and therein you buried him alive! Had he been criminal—had he merited his death, you had no right to doom him to death, and to become his executioner, for you were his master; the laws under which you live give you no such power.'

"Scarcely had F * * * left the room, when Mr. Wale drew from a box which contained my depositions, a letter from the old Dubue Ramville, addressed to him by one of F * * *'s neighbours, and which gave me the details of this atrocious murder.

"I had a full and entire knowledge of the horrible affair of which he was the author. I do not report that which was known to but few persons, for unfortunately it was too well known to very many colonists; since this mode of execution was but too often repeated at that period, without the government having the power to repress it. The vexations which the planters encountered in the execution of the laws, and the slowness with which the special tribunal, appointed to take cognizance of the crimes of the slaves, proceeded, led to a general relaxation of the obligations imposed by colonial regulations. Many of the planters became the judges and executioners of their own slaves. Even women did not hesitate to take part in these horrors. Nobody could know better than myself the occurrence of these barbarous executions. My profession of surveyor of the colony gave me the means of knowing, not only the individuals for whom I surveyed, but all their neighbours, as well as the anecdotes of each family.

"When the special tribunal had condemned to death one or two negroes for having poisoned the slaves of their master, or those of his neighbours, or the mules of one or the other, all the neighbourhood received news of it; and this was the case when the planter, without having recourse to the tribunal, determined upon the execution of his slaves. All the country round was informed; but the residents in the towns, such as Port-Royal or St. Pierre, were entirely ignorant of these executions perpetrated by the inhabitants of the country. The Creoles who dwell in the towns cannot be accused of cruelty towards their slaves.

"All the plantations that I know in Martinique, which have been ravaged by poison, are those on which the sugar cane is grown. The negroes of the coffee estates being more happy, and not subject to so painful a labour as the others, have not the same cause for poisoning. Nevertheless, several cases have come to my knowledge, when coffee estates have lost many negroes by the poison administered to them by those who live on the sugar plantations.

"Among the atrocious cases that I have known, one not less frightful than those which I have already cited presents itself to my recollection. D * * * D * * *, of the Quartier François, caused one of his negroes to be put to death in the following manner. He had lost several slaves by poisoning. His suspicions having fallen on the headman, he made all his other slaves attend at the boiling house, where the manufacture of sugar was then going on; and, after having had him tied by his hands and feet, caused him to be put, feet foremost, on the fire of the furnace, over which the coppers were then boiling.

"During the time I was occupied in making the plan of plantation Gatemalo, situated in the Quartiere de la Riviere Pilate, belonging to Madame Gregoire, I was sent for by the attorney of the plantation of Madame Samfort, in the same quarter, on business. I saw there a negro, whom the attorney, C * * *, charged with being a poisoner, to whom was given daily a morsel of bread, a little fish, and a glass of water. The fish was powdered with arsenic. The negro having suspected this, preferred dying by starvation, to dying by poison. He lived eleven days. After his death, all the poisoned provisions were found in his cell. The attorney of the estate had taken upon himself to inflict this punishment, without appealing to any tribunal whatever."

In the eighteenth chapter of his work, M. Fauvel Gouraud gives the following facts: "One morning, about eleven o'clock, I arrived at the house of F * * *, in proceeding to the Quartier de Marin, where I had to visit a plantation. I found his wife and children in tears. Having been informed of the cause of their sorrow, I learnt that M. F * * * was engaged at an execution, and that the militia of the neighbourhood, as well as the workmen of the environs, were present to witness it. I asked Madame F * * *, if the special tribunal had been held at her house; she replied, 'No,' and invited me to go and join her husband.

"* * * * * As I desired, before proceeding on my journey, to see her husband, I asked for my horses, and went to the place where the negro had just been put to death. His two feet had been tied together, as well as one of his hands, after he had dug his own grave in the presence of the other labourers. One of his arms had been attached to a cord, and two negroes, placed one on either side of the grave, held him up by means of a stick, to which the other end of the cord was joined. At a signal given by M. F * * *, four additional negroes, who had been placed there with shovels, commenced filling up the grave. When I arrived at the place of execution, the hand of the wretched negro was still quivering. * * * * * It is repugnant to humanity to believe that men who have received their education in France, could be capable of committing such atrocities. Now what were the reasons which induced M. F * * * to perpetrate, in cold blood, this abominable act? I will tell you. This unfortunate negro, who had been a domestic in the house, had stolen one or two fishes from the store, and for this had been sent to labour in the field. Some time after he was seized with fever, and asked permission to go to the hospital. F * * * accused him of making himself ill, and refused this permission, and made him continue his work in the field. Negroes when sick require care as well as whites; but F * * * refused this to his slave, and declared that, if he would die, he should die before he desired it. In short, he kept his word, and the negro was killed as I have stated."

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